1003543382

NEW YORK POST
New York, New York
August 31, 1960

Mayos Doubt Lung Cancer, Smoking Link

Rochester, Minn., Aug. 31 (AP) — A Mayo Clinic report belittles the role of tobacco smoking as a cause of lung cancer, but it indicates tobacco may be a contributing cause in some other diseases.

"In my own opinion, all available relevant facts considered, it seems very doubtful smoking causes cancer of the lung," wrote Dr. Joseph Berkson of the biometry and medical statistics section.

Dr. Berkson said there is association between smoking and all causes of death generally, of which cancer of the lung is only a small part.

The Mayo report by several researchers at the famed clinic is called "physiologic and pathologic aspects of smoking."

"It would seem reasonable for the ulcer patient to avoid smoking," concluded Dr. J. Arnold Bargen in a discussion of its effects on the digestive tract. And excessive smoking was cited in another section as contributing to amblyopia, or dimness of vision.

As for effects of smoking on the larynx and mouth, Dr. Kenneth D. Devine reported: "It has been found to be an important factor in the development of cancer of the oral cavity. Cigar and pipe smoking were found to increase the risk of cancer of the oral cavity more than cigaret smoking did."

LOS ANGELES TIMES
Los Angeles, California
September 1, 1960

Smoking-Cancer Link Doubted by Doctor

Rising Incidence May Be Due to Longer Life Expectancy, Physician Suggests

ROCHESTER, Minn., Aug. 31 (UPI)—Dr. Joseph Berkson of the Mayo Clinic says he doubts cigarette smoking causes lung cancer.

Berkson suggested the rising incidence of cancer of the lung might be attributed to the ever lengthening life expectancy.

"Cigarette smoking as a cause of lung cancer is questionable," Berkson said. "There is some association between smoking and all causes of death. and cancer of the lung is only a small cause of death.

"Available relevant facts considered, it seems, in my opinion, very doubtful smoking causes cancer of the lung."

Pipes Absolved

Berkson said studies have just about absolved cigar and pipe smoking as cancer-causing agents.

He said he smokes pipes and cigars but joked that "I may have to go back to smoking cigarettes to prove I don't believe in those statistics (linking cigarettes and cancer)."

Referring to deaths caused by tuberculosis, Berkson said a significant proportion of those who would have died from tuberculosis in early life now die of cancer of the lung.

"Are not the increased deaths from cancer of the lung, at least in part, in compensation of these decreased deaths?" he asked.

Opinions Presented

Berkson's opinions and those of several other Mayo Clinic staff members were presented at a recent symposium on smoking and health.

Their papers played down smoking as a lung cancer cause but pointed to tobacco as a possible cause in other diseases.

Dr. Edgar A. Hines Jr. said the use of tobacco has no apparent affect on blood pressure. But, he said, "numerous well-controlled studies show inhaling tobacco smoke in other ways causes a marked decrease in the flow of blood into the extremities."

Ulcer Cases

Dr. Kenneth D. Devine said smoking may be a cause in developing cancer of the mouth.

"Cigar and pipe smoking was found to increase the risk of cancer of the oral cavity more than cigarette smoking did," he said.

Oher papers told of smoking hindering the healing of ulcers, causing cancer of the throat and having affect on certain diseases.

1003543382A

1003543382 B

U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT
September 12, 1960

FRONT PAGE OF THE WEEK

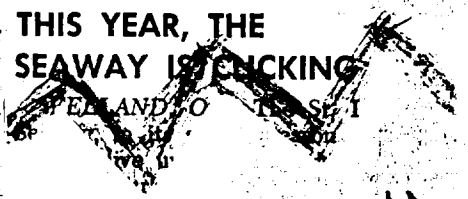
CONTINUED

CANCER AND SMOKING—MAYO DOCTOR'S VIEWS

ROCHESTER, Minn.—The Mayo Clinic's top authority on medical statistics says he doesn't believe in the statistics linking cigarettes and lung cancer.

In fact, says Dr. Joseph Berkson, director of biometrics and medical statistics at the Clinic, it is "very doubtful" that smoking causes cancer of the lung.

Dr. Berkson said that the rising incidence of lung cancer might be linked to the lengthening life expectancy of Americans. With tuberculosis on the decrease, he suggested, many of those who once would have died of tuberculosis early in life now die late in life of lung cancer.



1003543382 C

CLEVELAND PRESS
Cleveland, Ohio
September 1, 1960

Doubts Smoking Is Cause of Cancer

ROCHESTER, Minn.—(UPI)—Dr. Joseph Berkson of the Mayo Clinic says he doubts cigaret smoking causes lung cancer.

Berkson suggested the rising incidence of cancer of the lung might be attributed to the ever lengthening life expectancy.

"Cigaret smoking as a cause of lung cancer is questionable," Berkson said. "There is some association between smoking and all causes of death, and cancer of the lung is only a small cause of death."

Source: https://www.industrydocuments.ucsf.edu/docs/flbm0000